

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 04078 231514Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-11 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 PM-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 583

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4078

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PO, MC, CH, MZ

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE TROOPS DEPART MACAU:PEKING WITHHOLDS
RECOGNITION

REF: A) LISBON 3707, B) HONG KONG 10163;

C) HONG KONG -129

SUMMARY: PORTUGUESE EFFORT TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS WITH PEKING REMAINS THWARTED AS LISBON BEGINS
TROOPS WITHDRAWL FROM MACAU. PRC INSISTENCE ON INDEPENDENT
PORTUGUESE AFRICA AS CONDITION PRECEDENT NOT YET FULFILLED.
END SUMMARY.

1. IN SEPT. 18 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, DIPLOMATIC
AIDE TO PRESIDENT SPINOLA, NUNES BARRATA, CONFIRMED
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PAGE 02 LISBON 04078 231514Z

PRESS REPORT THAT 150 OF 500-MAN GARRISON STATIONED
MACAU WERE WITHDRAWN SEEKEND SEPT. 14-15 AND THAT ADDITI-

ONAL TROOPS WILL BE LEAVING IN THE NEAR FUTURE. AIDE SAID PORTUGUESE TROOP MOVEMENT DUE TO UNNECESSARY COST AND UNREST AMONG SOLDIERS IN ISOLATED AND INDEFENSIBLE OUTPOST. BARRATA COMMENTED TROOP WITHDRAWAL NOT PART OF QUID PRIOR TO RECOGNITION BY PRC AND THAT LAST SIGNAL FROM CHOU EN-LAI, BEFORE HOSPITALIZATION, INDICATED CHINA WILL HOLD OFF RECOGNITION UNTIL ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE ARE INDEPENDENT. AIDE ADDED THAT CHINA ALWAYS HAS OPEN OPTION TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL AFTER INDEPENDENCE OF ONLY MOZAMBIQUE.

2. BARRATA'S COMMENTS ON PRC RECOGNITION ARE IN LINE WITH FORMIN SOARES, SEPT. 15 PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE SAID CHINA AWAITS PROOF OF PORTUGUESE "GOOD FAITH" IN THE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS AND THAT "THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTACTS AND THE NORMALIZATION OF OUR RELATIONS ARE BEGINNING TO EVOLVE." BARRATA'S COMMENTS ALSO IN ACCORDANCE WITH LISBON SEPT. 16 PRESS REPORT OF CHOU EN-LAI CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO FRELIMO PRES. SAMORA MACHEL. MESSAGE NOTES THAT LUSAKA AGREEMENT OBLIGATING GOP TO RECOGNIZE AN INDEPENDENT MOZAMBIQUE IN FUTURE IS NOT EQUIVALENT TO ACTUAL RECOGNITION OF INDEPENDENCE.

3. COMMENT: THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WILL ALL COUNTRIES WAS A POINT IN THE PROGRAM OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) WHEN THEY TOPPLED THE CAETANO REGIME ON APRIL 25. AS REPORTED REFTEL (A), SOARES INFORMED EMBOFFS AT AUG. 27 LUNCHEON THAT PEKING WILLING TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS ONLY FOLLOWING MOZAMBIQUE DECOLONIZATION. IF THIS IS THE CASE, SOARES AND CHOU EN-LAI STATEMENTS INDICATE THAT IN PEKING'S VIEW MOZAMBIQUE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT NOT YET RIPE FOR DIPLOMATIC GO-AHEAD.

4. AS NOTED REFAIR, STATUS QUO IN MACAU IS IN PRC'S ECONOMIC INTEREST. REMOVAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS MAKES NOMINALLY PORTUGUESE COLONY ALL THE MORE ACCEPTABLE
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PAGE 03 LISBON 04078 231514Z

TO PRC AND AVOIDS QUESTION OF SAVING FACE. POSSIBLE PRC INTEREST IN OIL REFINER (REFTEL B) FURTHER UNDERLINES CHINESE ACCEPTANCE OF MACAU IN NAME OF PORTUGAL BUT FOR BENEFIT OF PRC.
SCOTT

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